

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions or listings of claims:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of making a nucleic acid comprising a coding sequence for expression in plant cells, said method comprising:

(a) starting with a native coding sequence of a gene;

(b) modifying the native coding sequence by substituting, for codons in the native coding sequence, only codons for identical amino acids that have the highest frequency of use in plant genes, according to the plant codon usage table in Fig. Figure 1; and

(c) making a nucleic acid comprising the modified coding sequence that contains the substituted codons and is more highly expressed in plant cells compared to the native coding sequence.

28. (Currently amended) The method claim 27, wherein the modifying comprises substituting the codon with highest frequency of use ~~codon~~ for at least the first twenty-five amino acids of the ~~native~~starting coding sequence.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the modifying comprises substituting the codon with highest frequency of use for at least 59 amino acids in the 5' end of the coding sequence.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising attaching ~~at least one regulatory sequence~~ flanking regulatory sequences to the modified coding sequence.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 ~~[[31]]~~, wherein the starting ~~native~~ coding sequence is a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) coding sequence.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the starting ~~native~~ coding sequence codes for a *B.t.* delta endotoxin protein.

33. (New) A method for constructing a nucleic acid comprising a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell and encoding a protein for expression in a plant cell, said method comprising

(a) starting with a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell;

(b) modifying the starting protein coding sequence of step (a) by substituting, for at least the first twenty-five amino acids of the starting protein coding sequence, a codon selected from Figure 1 that encodes the same amino acid and is used in the highest frequency in plants, and

(c) constructing a nucleic acid comprising a coding sequence containing the codons selected from Figure 1 and encoding the protein.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a prokaryotic or eukaryotic protein.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) protein.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) delta endotoxin.

37. (New) The method of any one of claims 33-36, further comprising:

(d) attaching flanking regulatory sequences to the nucleic acid that comprises the coding sequence containing the codons selected from Figure 1 and encoding the protein.

38. (New) A method for constructing a nucleic acid comprising a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell and encoding a protein for expression in a plant cell, said method comprising

(a) starting with a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell; and

(b) constructing a nucleic acid encoding the protein and containing codon substitutions relative to the starting protein coding sequence, wherein each codon substitution consists of a codon selected from Figure 1 that is used in the highest frequency in plants.

39. (New) A method for constructing a nucleic acid comprising a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell and encoding a protein for expression in a plant cell, said method comprising

(a) starting with a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell; and

(b) constructing a nucleic acid encoding the protein and containing codon substitutions in the 5' end of the protein coding sequence relative to the starting protein coding sequence, wherein each of said codon substitutions in the 5' end consists of a codon selected from Figure 1 that is used in the highest frequency in plants.

40. (New) A method for constructing a nucleic acid comprising a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell and encoding a protein for expression in a plant cell, said method comprising

(a) starting with a protein coding sequence foreign to a plant cell; and

(b) constructing a nucleic acid encoding the protein and containing codon substitutions in about the first 25 codons of the protein coding sequence relative to the starting protein coding sequence, wherein each of said codon substitutions in about the first

25 codons consists of a codon selected from Figure 1 that is used in the highest frequency in plants.

41. (New) The method of any one of claims 38-40, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a prokaryotic or eukaryotic protein.

42. (New) The method of any one of claims 38-40, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) protein.

43. (New) The method of any one of claims 38-40, wherein the protein coding sequence encodes a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) delta endotoxin.

44. (New) The method of any one of claims 38-40, further comprising:

(c) attaching flanking regulatory sequences to the nucleic acid that comprises the coding sequence containing the codons selected from Figure 1 and encoding the protein.